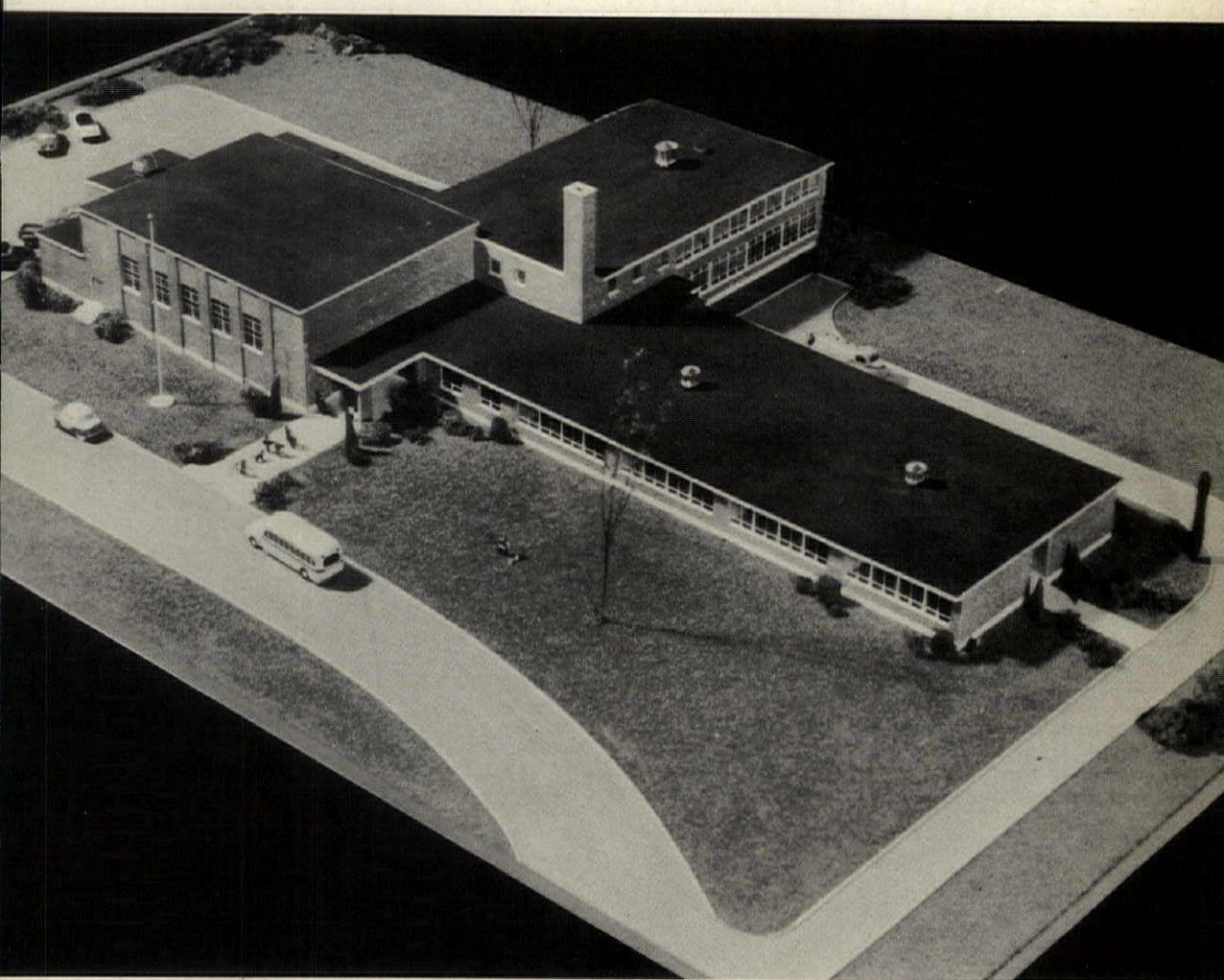


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New Hampshire **ARCHITECT**

MARCH
1952

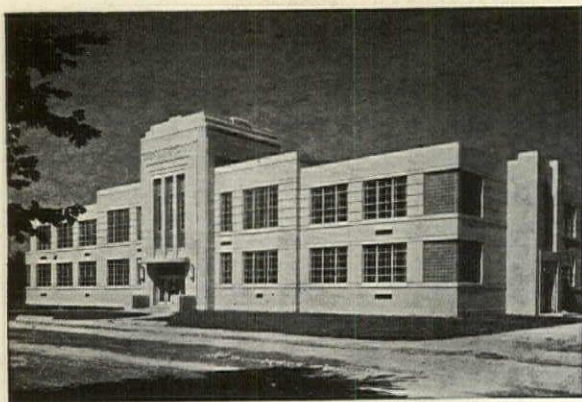


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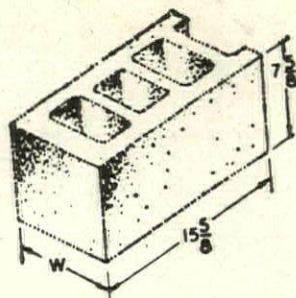
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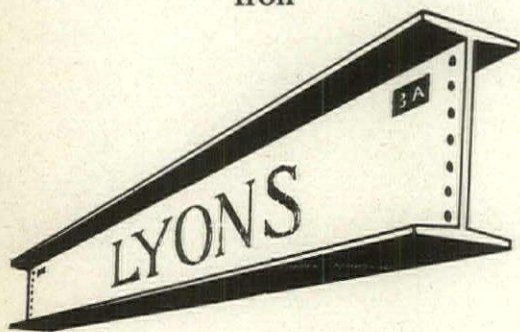
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Official Publication - N. H. Chapter A. I. A.



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OUR COVER

Model of the proposed grade school building for Lebanon, N. H.

Architect: Alfred T. Granger, Architects & Engineers Associates, Hanover, N. H.

Articles and photographs to be published in New Hampshire Architect should be mailed to Alexander Majeski, Palomino Lane, Manchester, N. H.

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Few people would claim to know more about rearing fish or conserving wild life than the state Fish and Game Department. Nor would they claim that they could do these things cheaper. But the Fish and Game Department—according to Leon Anderson's column in the Concord Monitor—claims the ability to build a residence for hatchery superintendent at less cost than under contracts let by competitive bidding.

In other words this state department can build more efficiently than building specialists. It can hire better labor, it can buy materials more advantageously, it can make fewer mistakes, it can build faster, it can get lower prices from subcontractors. Big savings would result from eliminating the general contractor's overhead and profit. Presumably the architect's fee would also be eliminated, since they did not ask for an architect to be assigned until the Governor and Council had denied permission to build with their own forces.

This is the perennial cry of all bureaucracies and I suppose it will never be stilled. But why are they not more consistent in their claims? If they can plan and build houses better, why can they not also design and fabricate their own boots and other wearing apparel? Why do they not build their own trucks? Why do they not raise their own food, and make all their own tools? Think of all the money they would save the state and the taxpayers, if they were as self-sufficient in all of these matters, as they seem to be in the matter of providing shelter.

Not only do bureaucrats regard themselves as experts in the planning and building of houses. Practically **everyone** feels this way. Even those who leave such things to hired help think that they could do it just as well, if they really put their mind to it.

Why is this?

I think the answer is simply that shelter

being a universal and common experience, the average person feels that his long habitation in dwellings endows him with a considerable knowledge thereof. It is just like raising children — practically everyone who is not a parent feels pretty sure that he or she can do a perfect job of bringing up children. This feeling persists until the job is well under way, then most of us realize that we have made a few mistakes and seek help from others who are more experienced.

So, it is wise to profit from the experience and mistakes of others in the designing and building of houses, as it is with the raising of children or for that matter, any endeavor whatever. It is more expensive and the results are dubious when we bull through on our own even though we profit from our mistakes thereafter.

Eugene J. Magenan



Thanks for the splendid job you did with our Nugget Theater. I think that your cover lay-out is excellent. In the event that you may be interested in our Maple Avenue School at Claremont, I am enclosing a photograph and description of same.

Sincerely yours,

F. H. Marston

ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Richard Koehler, A.I.A.

Salut

"Each of us limitless—each of us with his or her right upon earth."—Walt Whitman.

Salut

To the young men of our profession who were recently welcomed into our N. H. A. I. A.

During their interviews, impressive was their vitality, open-mind and refreshing idealism—perhaps the seven old men of the Executive Board peering from beetled brows could see themselves reincarnated—of the two I don't know which is the more whimsical.

The Chapter is relatively as young as these young men. It, too, has vitality and idealism and hopes to lean heavily upon them, to use their good fellowship and opinions.

Relax and Unwind

In an age such as ours with its tensions, ambitions, speed and circle thinking, I have found two antidotes. One is a telescopic photograph of a star so far distant, that the light now reaching us started before the birth of Christ; the other is to listen to discussions between one of my very young sons and his imaginary friend "Elfy."

The photo with its tantalizing infinity explodes my ego; the "Elfy" fantasy convinces me that only the very young possess pure faith without rings of limitation.

A most fabulous character is "Elfy"—many times I've shaken his hand, talked with him and one unfortunate time I, with adult clumsiness, stumbled over his foot, much to my young son's disgust.

After these excursions, architectural and personal problems lose some of their weight.

Design

While walking along a cobbled stone street in Tsingtoa, North China, I came upon the world's most lovable two year old beggar, who, after successful begging, exposed me to a most functional design: the seat of his little trousers were completely removed in the shape of the moon. Leave us no longer talk about educating the Chinese—in that moment, I was sure that the Chinese fully understood Function, Solar Heat and Air Conditioning—plus a hint of burlesque.

Ambition

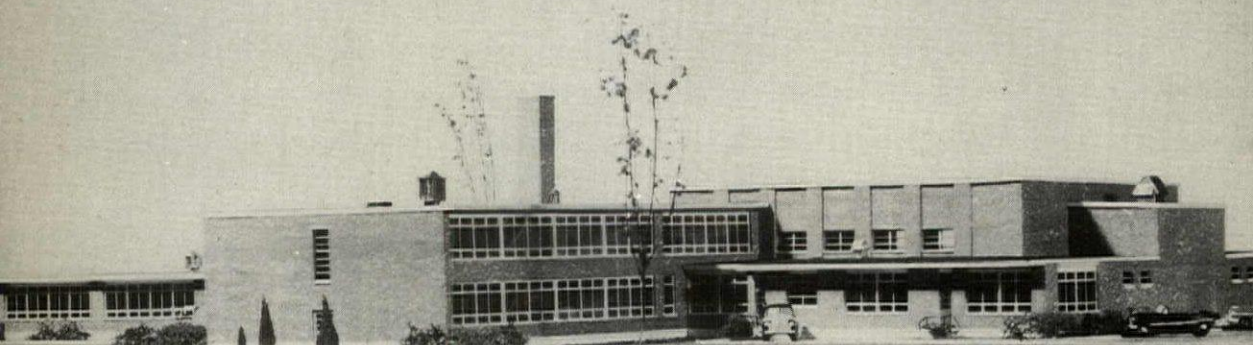
The excellent writing in "The Sea Around Us" by Rachel L. Carson in one part describes the life or death ambition of a sea urchin left upon dry land. In conceivable as it sounds, the specie did adapt inself to the air and dry land and from a crawling thing, through the ages, eventually — walked — talked — Married — applied a cultural veneer and eventually made war upon each other because one little squid didn't like the other little squid's philosophy.

In the light of this condensed evolution of life, I find my "inards" rolling with chuckles when I mentally transform the arrogant, the pompous, to very naked little squids with ambition.

May the architect be high minded; not arrogant but faithful, just, and easy to deal with; without avavice. Let him be not mercenary, nor let his mind be occupied in receiving gifts; but let him preserve his good name with dignity.

—Marcus Vitvuvius.

Proposed Grade School Building at Lebanon



ALFRED T. GRANGER ASSOCIATES
Architects & Engineers
Hanover, N. H.

Site—35 acres flat land—Land usable for playgrounds and future additions.

17 Classrooms—25' x 35'. Each classroom to have working counter with sinks and shelves at end of room. Austral Wardrobe Units and Teachers Closet.

Cafeteria—25' x 47'—to seat 120.

Kitchen—16' x 25'—with food storage space.

Domestic Science—25' x 47'—to have built-in Kitchen cubicles, Instructor's Table, Sewing portion and Food Storage Space.

Assembly Hall (which is used as Auditorium and Gymnasium combined)—62' x 88' with Junior High School basketball court area; Stage 21' x 26'—with Dressing Rooms and Locker Rooms.

Teachers Room—10' x 25'—with toilet.

General Office & Principal's Room—15'6" x 26' with Vault.

Health & Conference Room with Toilet—15' x 25'.

Supply Closets.

Boys & Girls Toilets.

Central Boiler Plant—Steam vapor heat, Vulcan radiation. Each classroom is zone controlled.

Electric—Classrooms, fluorescent lighting. Electric clock, gong, buzzer & Audio-visuo system.

Construction

Outside Walls—4" sand struck brick and 8" cinder block tile.

Interior Walls—Cinder block tile. Corridor side plastered with Corridors having Vitritile walls 6' 0".

Ceramic tile floors and dadoes in Toilets and Showers.

Concrete floors on earth covered with asphalt tile.

Reinforced concrete slab over Boiler Room.

Ceilings throughout plastered, excepting Gymnasium which will have Acousti-Celotex panels.

Roof Construction—Wood—Douglas fir.

Roof—Tar and gravel—20 year bonded.

Windows—Wood—Multiple units, 4 to a classroom. These units are made of structural fir, jambs of which act as columns for roof load.

Construction cost—\$319,210.00. Bids taken October 18, 1951. Contract awarded to Wagner Construction Co., 122 No. Winoski Avenue, Burlington, Vermont.

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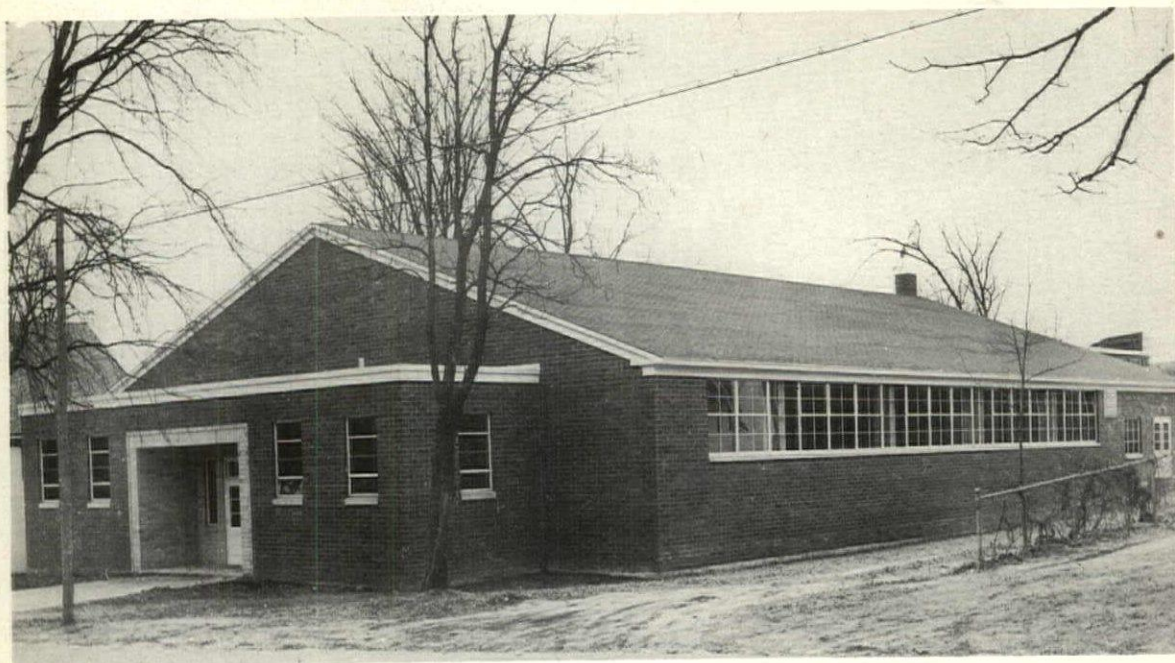
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Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Desire to inform their clientele that though they are executing military architectural and engineering work at the Portsmouth Air Base, their several and individual firms are available as always to perform their private architectural and engineering services.

School Assembly Building at Ashland



The accompanying photographs illustrate the new School Assembly Building completed in 1950 in Ashland, N. H.

The program called for locating the structure as near as possible to the existing high school, the front of which was level with Highland Street but which rose steeply in the rear to an elevation about 20 feet above the street. The building was adapted to the site by constructing a flat roofed two-story structure in the rear of the stage. The first floor of this wing was at stage level with a passage in the rear of the stage from which opened the boiler room, a store-room, and the physical director's office. Stairs led to the second floor where shower and locker facilities for boys and girls were located. This floor opened to the ground near by at the top of the hill,—a walk led to the high school.

At the front of the building on Highland Street there is a portico from which the foyer is entered. Public toilets and a chair storage room are entered from the foyer.

From the foyer two doors lead to the gymnasium. The basketball court is 48 feet by 75 feet. On each side of the court are permanent bleachers seating a total of 400 spectators. The stage is 20 feet deep by 69 feet long, with a proscenium opening 30 feet wide.

Highland Street View of Ashland School.

The roof of the gymnasium is supported by a rigid frame of steel. This permitted a low wall height of 14 feet in back of the bleachers and a height of 26 feet over the center of the playing floor.

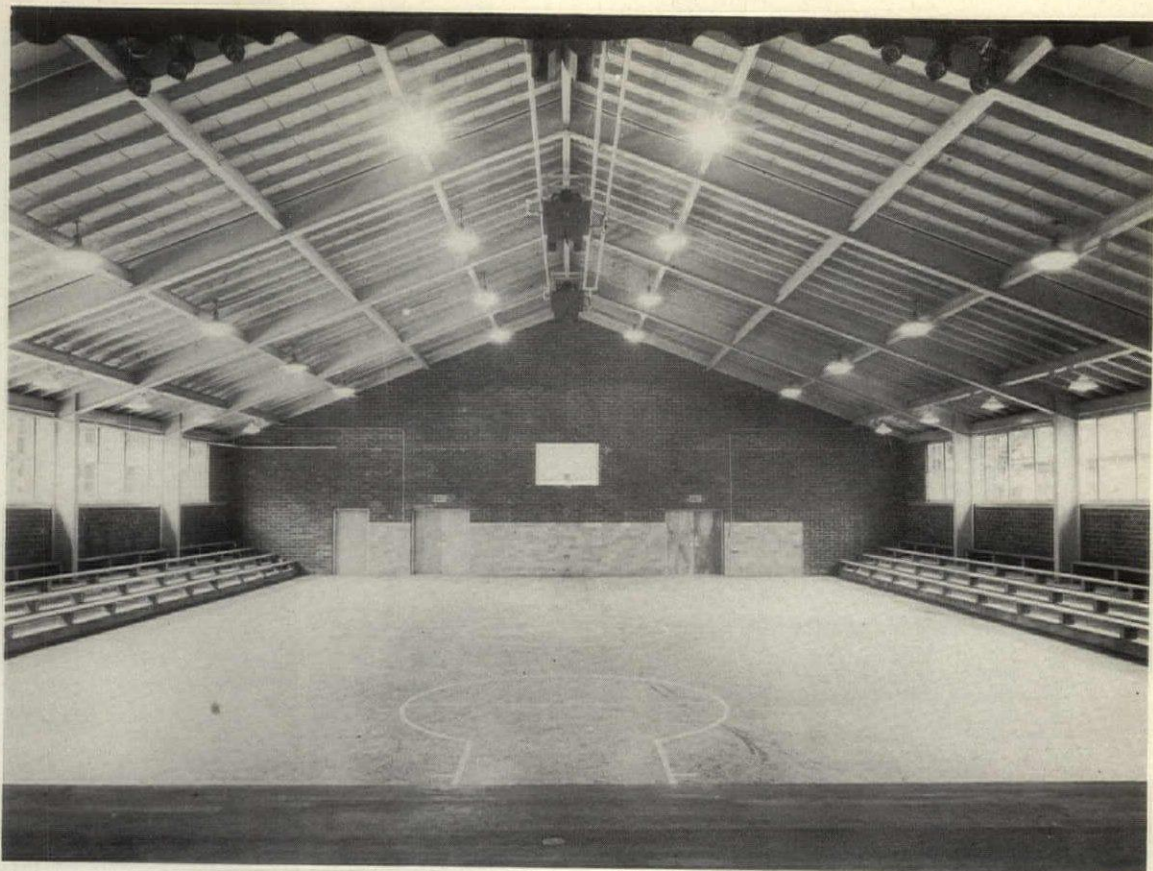
The exterior walls are of red hollow tile clay masonry with buff tile at the entrance. In the gymnasium, smooth glazed tile was used on walls with which players come in contact.

All floors of the building are concrete on grade, except the second floor of the locker wing, which is a reinforced concrete floor supported on bearing walls and beams.

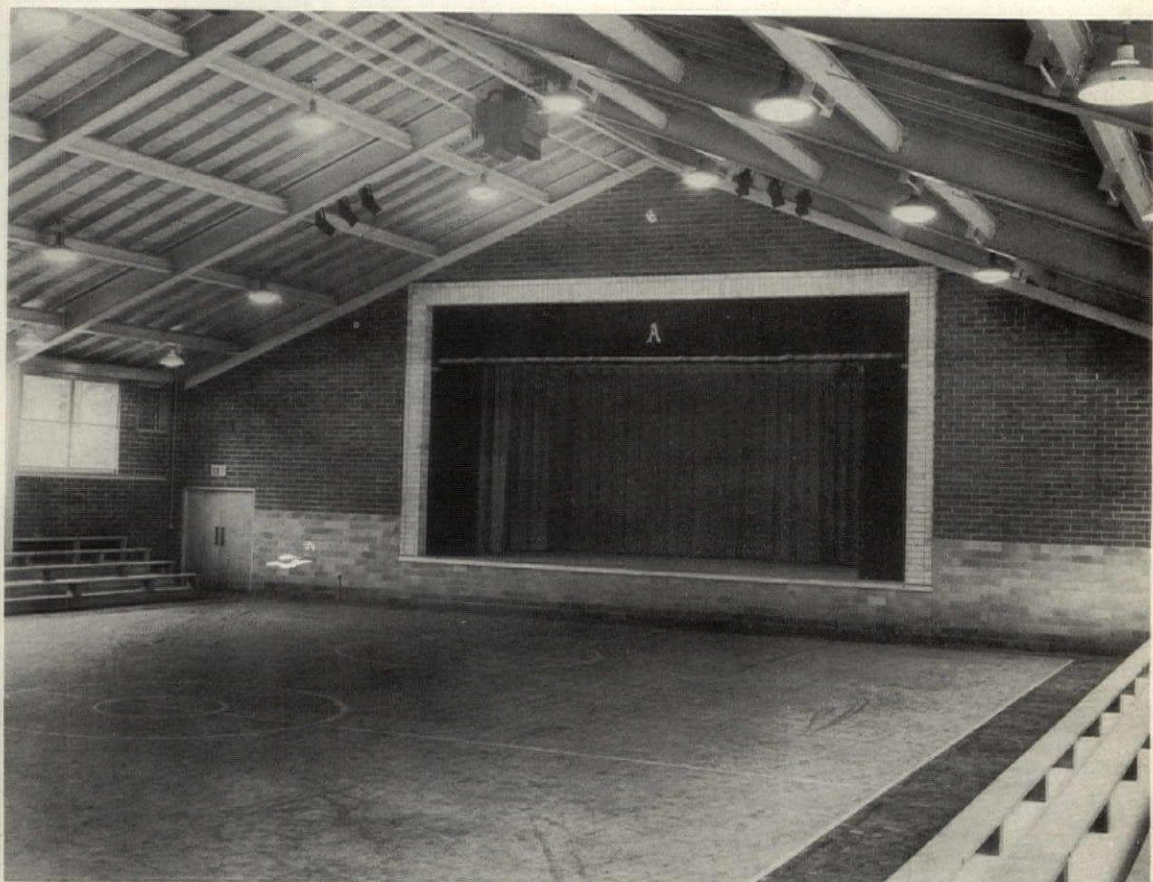
Floors of the foyer and gymnasium are covered with asphalt tile with court markings of white asphalt tile in the gymnasium. Besides being attractive, this type of floor has proved quite satisfactory both for basketball and dancing, and for classes in physical education. Flooring over the concrete subfloor on the stage is wood. All other floors are dust proofed concrete.

The building is heated by a zoned forced hot water system, with unit heaters under the ridge of the gymnasium roof.

Construction cost was approximately \$83,000. Norman P. Randlett of Laconia, N. H., was the architect.



Interior View of New Assembly Building.



Assembly Building Looking Toward Stage.

TIME for REALITIES

BY JAMES KELSEY

These remarks are made by an engineer at present registered in New York and Massachusetts. He has had contacts and arguments with architects in major structures, bridges, and buildings. In earlier years he has built for himself, two homes both without benefit of architectural talent, a procedure which he would not now repeat; for by that experience, he has learned that a person not qualified in architecture will make some mistake, big or little, which detracts from usefulness or beauty or economy or resale value of his house. For years he has had eyes open to the appearance of physical things and feels that architects as a body have left much to be desired—as, to anticipate and deserved retort, have engineers.

Is architecture for the few or for the many? Must its use be confined to the well-heeled who can afford it and its practice be restricted to the obstinate cuss who has the will to live through the lean years to reach a place in the sun?

There are ex-G. I.'s by the million who need houses and can obtain financing to build houses, many of whom don't know there is such a profession as architecture. There are the wives, or prospective wives, of such G. I.'s who, if they knew there was such a thing as architecture, would think their bread-winners stupid, or worse, were they to suggest that they waste several hundred dollars for something so unproductive.

When a Lincoln Memorial is built it will have had architectural services. Or a new state capital. Or a new high school. Or the office building of the new war plant (but the plant itself may look like something the cat brought in). But the tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, of new homes going up along the highways, for people who will no longer live in the city slums, will be built from a portfolio of Royal Barry Wills or lifted bodily out

of Better Homes and Gardens. The plans could almost as well come out of a hat.

When a couple with the building bug do have education to know that an architect can do more than put a pretty face on a **bastardized** plan—sired by the owner's ignorance and nurtured by the contractor's limitations—they may be so afraid to take the first steps to get entangled with an architect that they hesitatingly make a preliminary side-trip to a lawyer to find what their obligation may be.

What can the profession be thinking of when it fails to take the most strenuous measures to sell itself? I have been told it is unethical to advertise! One might as well say it is unethical to eat. Ethics involve the idea of an unfair advantage, of a colleague or a client. There can be nothing underhanded in the mere calling attention to service that can be rendered (if one has the qualifications). There certainly need be nothing low-brow in dissemination, by architect's associations, of information as to what the profession can do and to what the profession expects in return.

I believe that the problem of providing architectural service to the many should be tackled from two angles. First, by the A. I. A. or its chapters. Their attack could take this form. Periodically, as their funds permitted, to publish in a magazine of the widest circulation: Ladies Home Journal, for instance, (the women will see that the men read what is good for them), or even Life; a full-page spread, complete or in series, telling briefly what an architect can do. Tell and perhaps show how your mother can be provided with safe stairs so that she can avoid the fall that makes her an invalid the rest of her life. Tell how the training of an architect can avoid the picture window that looks at your neighbor's garbage can. Illustrate how the man of the house can avoid the twice a year chore of borrowing the neighbor's extension ladder to put on and take off screens and storm windows. Note the embarrassment that can ensue from making a bedroom or bathroom a passageway from one room to another. (It is not recommended that this be illustrated.) Show the fireplace around which none may gather without blocking

all movement in the house; show the chimney that smokes, the driveway that has to be plowed, the pretty little tree in front of the living-room window that grew up into a bull pine. Show the little woman carrying a basket of wet clothes up from the washer in the basement. Tell of all the bright sunlight in the master's bedroom (when he is at the office); tell of all the pitfalls that the unwary can fall into (and generally will, because they never build enough houses to learn.)

Then tell them, too, that you can indeed make a better looking house, not just because they can take more pride in their ownership; it has a real market value. It is part of the return, livability being the other part, that the owner gets for his judgment in hiring an architect.

And, above all, don't waste your money by telling him that the cost to him is **only** or **up to** six percent (or what you will) of the contract price. He does not want any one to look down at him with an **only** \$500 or only \$1,000. Nor does he want to look up to six per cent. Give it straight and in detail. Particularly do not play for the last dollar. Let it be known that prospective owners can get preliminary advice on plans, and fitness to site and to family, and on costs, for so much, dollars or percent; that they can get complete plans and specifications for so much additional; that for so much more the architect will provide general supervision right up to the point of turning over the keys to a dwelling, that the owner can walk into and hang up his hat.

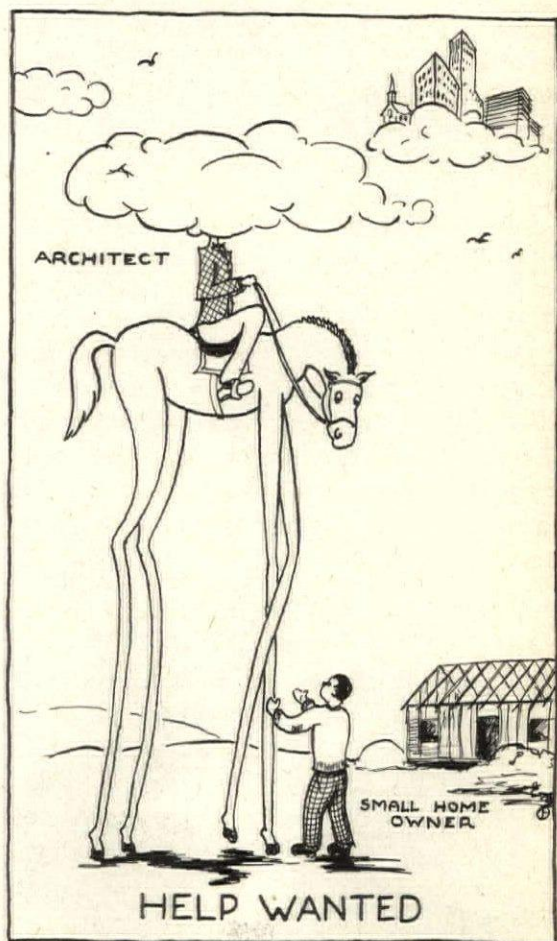
You may, for the benefit of your old established architects and your prima donas of the profession, indicate that such men can not be expected to drop out to the house for a chat with you, even though your problem is a once in a lifetime problem to you. But the burden should be on these men to make plain their exclusiveness; otherwise to live with the published financial rewards of the profession.

A man may speak of the family physician, at fairly frequent intervals; he may, if he is in business, have to occasionally refer to "my" lawyer; but if he were to say "my" architect he, or she, would do

so with an affected simper that would make plain the rarity of the association. This does not make the profession any the less honorable. It does, though, prohibit architects from sitting on their tails in their offices waiting for clients to come to them.

The second angle of attack is this. Let some of the younger members of the profession make their own opportunity, instead of starving while they wait for the older ones to die off or to retire or to share existing business. Preferably with the blessing of the A. I. A. but without that blessing if it is not forthcoming. Partnerships of qualified but not established architects should be formed, for the specific purpose of providing consulting architectural service. They should be permitted, and expected, to advertise that service. Available to them should be that educational material mentioned earlier herein. Their freedom of action to educate the

(Continued on page 13)



N. H. Chapter Members View Film on Prestressed Concrete Construction

Members of the New Hampshire Chapters of the American Institute of Architects were privileged to view some excellent movies on the evening of February 21, the chapter's winter meeting at the Exeter Inn, Exeter N., H. Thanks to Mr. Victor Kjellman, sales representative of the Portland Cement Association, who provided the film on the construction of a prestressed bridge recently opened to traffic in Philadelphia, Pa.

Chapter president Gene Magenau, presiding reported on the Board meeting and his attendance as guest of the A. G. C. at their annual meeting on December 14, in Concord.

Treasurer Stewart Lyford's report and budget for the current year were approved.

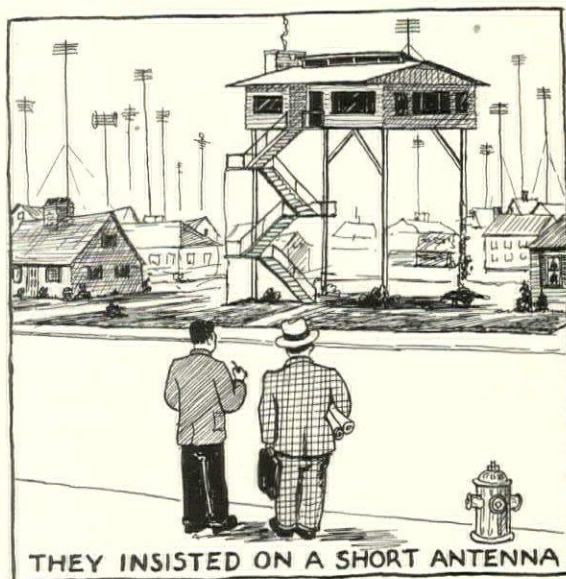
Carl Peterson of Manchester, reported that the Joint Committee with A. G. C. on Bidding Procedure had met with subcontractors and was waiting specific suggestions from them, to be studied for inclusion in the resolutions for adoption by the A. I. A. and A. G. C.

Proposed By-Laws for the New England Regional Council, the American Institute of Architects were adopted by unanimous vote. All of the New England Chapters have now approved the By-Laws.

Regulations for the Chapter Scholarship Fund submitted by the Executive Committee were approved in general and will now be drawn up in final form.

Announcement was made that the annual Product Literature Competition entries close March 15.

New corporate member Edward B. Miles of Exeter, N. H., was welcomed into the Chapter. Editor Alex Majeski was roundly applauded for his effective work on the N. H. Architect.



Air Conditioning to Sway Future House Designs

Year round air conditioning will produce a tremendous impact on home design in the next few years. The added price of such all-year conditioning, however will be offset to a considerable extent by savings in other construction costs. Units that provide cooling in summer, heating in winter, and a gentle circulation of air throughout the entire year will be on the market.

Costly wings to obtain crossventilation are not needed, there is no need for seasonal interchange of screens and storm windows and it is possible to dispense with louvres, attic fans and casement window.

In addition cleaning bills will be reduced and furnishings will stay fresh longer.

Time for Realities

(Continued from page 11)

public to a new service should not be circumscribed. Such freedom is in no way inconsistent with the reasonable code of the ethics which binds one architect not to undercut another.

There is no cut-rate scheme here. There is no going in at the tradesmen's entrance. You have an obligation to perform. If you let the countryside be dotted with monstrosities because your back is up and your high hat on, then your rank and file will deserve the lean years they will get and your association will deserve to wither away.

It is a fair prediction that if any qualified architect or group of architects should show any success in persuading the public that architecture is bread and not cake, they would be accepted by the fraternity with open arms, even though they had introduced a little vulgarity in the doing of it. Dignity is a little hard to maintain on an empty stomach. The A. I. A. is not the C. I. O. and their methods may never meet but it must be remembered that both exist for their members and their members exist by serving the community.

If the profession has a mental reservation that "there is no money in it" we need only to recall that Henry Ford was unbeaten as long as he sold transportation, and immediately lost ground as soon as he began to compete in peddling plush and chrome. Let us remember also that people still have individuality and taste and will resist being poured into the mold of prefabrication. They are no more disposed to swing on the tail of the prefabricating kite than architects are to be the tail.

There is enough art in every architect so that he ought to fear the alternative to working his own vineyard.

Professional snobbery is an expensive luxury.

When we mean to build
We first survey the plot,
Then drawn the model
And when we see the figure of the house
Then must we rate the cost of the erection.
—Shakespeare.

Where do we go from here?

The front of the lot faced an unsightly set of mid-victorian farm buildings directly across the road. The rear presented a view of rolling fields, distant pine forests, and a large expanse of western sky.

A picture window was wanted. When the architect wished to place it in the rear of the proposed new home, the lady of the house exclaimed, "But nobody will see it!"

Two men were sitting in a discussion group in an Army camp and the conversation somehow drifted to the topic of reincarnation. A certain pvt, a firm believer in the subject, was giving his views to the most disliked sgt in the camp.

"Yes," he said, "when we die we always retn as something or someone else."

"Rubbish," snapped the sgt, "do you mean to say that if I died I might come back as a worm?"

"Not a hope," interjected one of the men, seizing an opportunity. "You're never the same thing twice!"—*Prattler.*



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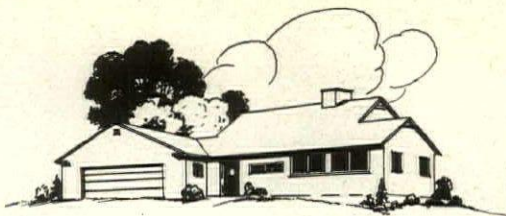
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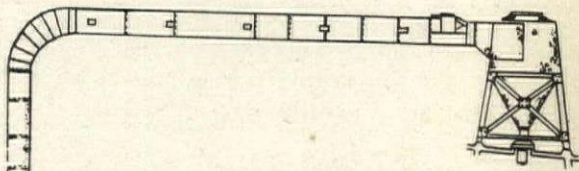
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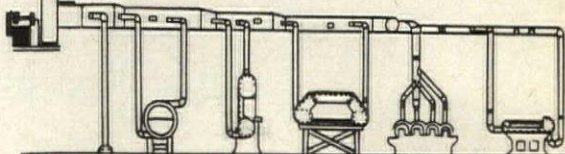
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